Vol. VI. Numb. 19

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the News from Sweden. *The vulgar Miſtakes concerning that King. The* Rehearſer's *Opinion of that Prince. The* Rehearſer's *two grand Queſtions concerning nurſing Fathers, Rebellion, and Witchcraft. A melancholy Story from Land; another from Sea.*

From Saturday, May 3. to Wednesday, May 7. 1707.

Country-m. WELL, Maſter, now let us ſpeak a little of the News.

Obſ. As little as may be, *Roger*; for 'tis a dangerous Subject.

Country-m. Mayn't we talk as other Folk talk?

Obſ. No, *Roger*; ſome talk like Fools, others talk like Knaves; but we muſt talk honeſtly.

Country-m. Now, Maſter, you talk like the firſt Sort of Folks you mention'd; for he that talks honeſtly, talks like a Fool, becauſe he talks dangerouſly.

Obſ. So I ſay; and therefore let us wave ſpeaking of the News.

Country-m. I would ſpeak of your King of *Sweden*, becauſe the People ſpeak of him.

Obſ. What ha'ſt thou to ſay of him? You know I have no Reaſon to alter my Opinion of him.

Country-m. No, Maſter, both your Whig and Tory Enemies ſay you were in the Right on't: But they have ſo many *Buts*, *Hems*, and *Ha's* with 'em, that they ſeem diſſatisfy'd ſtill about that Prince's having ſo many Troops, and not telling every Body where he deſigns to march 'em.

Obſ. Suppoſe he ſhould march ſome of 'em to the Aſſiſtance of the poor People in the *Cevennes*; would not that be a glorious Action, *Roger*?

Country-m. Aye, Maſter, or ſhould he march to many where elſe, to the Aſſiſtance of Proteſtants in Arms in Defence of their holy Religion, their native Freedoms and Birth-rights, I ſhould pray heartily for his Succeſs. But, Maſter, pray tell me what you think he will do? No Body hears us, and I will keep Counſel.

Obſ. Roger, I don't know; and if I did, I would not tell.

Country-m. I ſpeak for my own Information, becauſe the Pamphleteers flirt at you about that Prince: The *Rehearſer* call'd him but t'other Day, your *Favourite King of* Sweden.

Obſ. Roger, he was once the *Rehearſer*'s *Favourite*; he once ſpoke very well of that Prince.

Country-m. You muſt ſhow me how, and when; for I can't believe him guilty of ſpeaking well of any good Man.

Obſ. I will ſhow it you in his own Words, p. 79. of his *Regale and Pontificate*. *And the Forbearance and Victory which God has lately afforded to this preſent young magnanimous, and moſt glorious King, is the moſt obſervable of any in* this Age. *May the divine Mercy continue to preſerve him! The Particulars of his Victory ſet forth a Conduct above his Years. But the Air of Religion in it, exceeded all the reſt. And is a* rare Example in this Age. *He receiving the Holy Sacrament, with his Army, before they began their Attack againſt ten times their Number in the Trenches; and when, after a miraculous Victory, he enter'd the Tent of the* Czar, *falling down on his Knees, and giving Thanks, and the Glory to God.*

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, let me ſee that Book? *Seeing is Believing.* I am an Infidel ſtill.

Obſ. Take the Book, *Roger*.

Country-m. Let me ſee; the High-flyers don't approve of *extempore* Prayer, or of Thankſgiving, but according to the Uſage of our Church. Somewhat, ſure, was in the Wind, which extorted this *Encomium* from Father *Leſley*. Oh! I have found it out; here 'tis in page 80. in theſe Words:

His Father, the late King of Sweden, *had recommended to him, upon his Death-bed, That when the Arch-Biſhop of* Upſal *(the only Arch-Biſhop in the Kingdom) dy'd, he ſhould endeavour to procure Dr.* Speggel, *Biſhop of* Niccopin, *to be promoted to it. Accordingly the young King did uſe all his Intereſt for him: But the Biſhops choſe Dr.* Benzelius, *Biſhop of* Stragneſs, *who is now* Arch-Biſhop. *And the King was ſo far from taking of it ill, that he excus'd himſelf, upon the Account of his Father's laſt Directions, for medling in it at all, as being a Matter within their Province, and not his. Perhaps thoſe Biſhops were aware of letting in Kings Recommendations, knowing what a few Precedents of that kind would amount to.*

Obſ. Roger, this is the true Picture of *High-Church*. No King or Queen can purchaſe its Praiſes, but at the Expence of Condeſcention, and their yielding up Points. Thou ar't in the Right on't; this large *Encomium* on the King of *Sweden*, proceeds from his Non-oppoſition (for he might legally have oppos'd) to the Biſhops Choice of their *Metropolitan*. But how does it appear, that the King of *Sweden* does own this Buſineſs not to be within his Province? If we have no other Aſſurance of the Truth of it, than the *Rehearſer*'s bare Aſſertion, we know what Credit his *Legends* have in the World, and ſo muſt look after other Confirmations.

Perhaps, he ſays, *thoſe Biſhops were aware of letting in Kings Recommendations.* I ſay, Perhaps the King was too earneſtly employ'd in Defence of his Crown and Realm, to be at Leiſure to attend a *Church-moot*, and look after the Election of a *Prelate*: He was fighting *pro Patria*, and had not Time to contend *pro Aris & Focis*. Another perhaps too might be in the

the Case; those Bishops are not so sawcy, nor such Malignants, as our High-flyers; they do not oppose their King, and affront him in wicked *Memorials*, as ours do the Queen: And so perhaps he could trust to their Election, that they would chuse an Arch-Bishop in the Interest of King and Country.

Don't you remember, *Roger*, that when I us'd to commend the Actions of Prince *Eugene*, or the Earl of *Peterborough*, that the *Rehearser* recriminated, and said, That I *Eugen'd* and *Peterborough'd Somebody?* Mayn't we say he does the same? Receiving the Sacrament before Battel, Praying, and returning Thanks, is *a rare Example in this Age.* Is not *Somebody Sweden'd* here? 'Tis well if he escapes a *Drubbing.*

Country-m. 'Tis what he has been pleading for, and justifying a long Time; and let him e'en see how he likes it.—— But, Master, now we have taken hold of his Skirts, don't let him go, 'till we have given him an Answer to his unanswerable Question.

Obs. If it be unanswerable, how shall we answer it?

Country-m. He only huffs and bounces, and says, 'tis unanswerable; but I am sure you can answer it, if you will.

Obs. *Roger*, I have answer'd it already, if he and others would mind it; 'tis beneath me to take any farther Notice of it; and considering my Indisposition, I think you ought to answer him; he lies open enough.

Country-m And since his *Country-man* does vapour on that Head, I think my self particularly oblig'd in this Point. The Question, in short, is this: If Nurse-Children will not eat their Victuals, but set all in an Uproar; what must nursing Fathers do with such Children?

To this, I answer, The nursing Father must have Recourse to the Original Contract, how the Children came to be subject, and it will show him his Duty: And the Children (as Subjects so compar'd) must look to the Bargain, by what Contract and Covenants they came under, and this will teach them their Duty.

No one became subject to another, but upon Terms; and these Terms are to be consider'd as the original Contract. The Nurse-Children do pay for *nursing*, and they are to have all Things convenient according to Contract; and when they have not, they may complain to their Parents, who may withdraw both the Children, and the Alimony.

If the Children make an Uproar, the Occasion thereof is to be consider'd, whether the Foster-Father be not partial, in suffering some to usurp over the rest; or in giving some *Roast-meat*, and making others eat the *Crambe bis cocta*, the Offall and Fragments.

And 'tis farther to be consider'd, whether the quarrelling of the Children does proceed from any Indisposition of Body, or from innate Malice and Peevishness; if from the former, they are to be pitty'd, and have Physick, instead of Food; if from the latter, they are to be punish'd according to the Rules and Methods agreed upon in the Contract for Nursing.

A King punishes his Subjects according to Law: But when he punishes them according to the Dictates of his own corrupt Will, and sovereign, absolute, pretended Power, he is no longer a King, but *ipso facto*, becomes a Tyrant.

As to his Rebellion and Witchcraft, 'tis a meer Puzzle put upon the People. These Priests are horribly given to pervert the Scriptures, and wrest them to their own Meaning; as here; 'tis *Saul*, the *Royal Rebel* against God, that is compar'd to Witchcraft; not one Word of the People's Rebellion against *Saul*. Nay, he is told, he had done the Work of his Father, the Devil, to spare *Agag*, in Disobedience to God's Commands: And therefore God would put it in the Power of the People to pull him down, and set up another. If the People had not done it, they had rebell'd too, if they had not assisted *David*, to set him up. But not one Word in the Text, of any Rebellion, or Rebels, but King *Saul*, as disobeying the King of Kings.

I have always observ'd the high-flying Clergy, justifying the Proceedings of Rebel Kings, as *Saul*; of Tyrants, as *Nero* and *Caligula*; but still condemning the People that rise up against them in Defence of their Liberties and Estates: And in Defence of Law. We must mind that Point, Master.

For 'tis the Law governs the King; and had not *Saul* broken the Laws, and thereby turn'd Rebel, he had never been dethron'd. So 'tis with the People, they are guilty of Rebellion, when they oppose the Law; but sure they are not so, when they take Arms in Defence of Law and Property.

Obs. *Roger*, had I Strength, I could say much to this Point: And indeed I have done more of that already than ever he will be able to answer.

Country-m. Master, here's dismal News.

Obs. For my Part, *Roger*, I don't find Occasion of such extraordinary Rejoycing, as some People do; but perhaps that may proceed from Vapours, and Indisposition of Body.

Country-m. A Battail lost in *Spain*, so many Ships taken at Sea, is a dreadful Calamity.

Obs. I hope the former is not so great as the *Paris* Gazeteer relates it. And as to the latter, it does not in the least surprize me; every Body knows my Opinion of the Management of our Naval Affairs. Natural Events are never surprizing. *Roger*, I can hold up no longer.

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